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INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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RUEHMR/AMCONSUL MARSEILLE PRIORITY 2002
RUEHSR/AMCONSUL STRASBOURG PRIORITY 0574
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUCPDO/DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 08 PARIS 000957

SIPDIS

FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM AMBASSADOR STAPLETON

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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TAGS ECON, FINR, KPAL, NATO, OVIP, PGOF, PREL, PTER, SENV,
AF, CH, CO, FR, IR, IS, IZ, LE, LG, RS, SR, SU, YI

SUBJECT: YOUR JUNE 14-16 VISIT TO PARIS

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Classified By: Classified by Ambassador Craig R. Stapleton, for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d)

SUMMARY

1. (C) Mr. President, you will arrive in France as Nicolas Sarkozy begins the second year of a five-year term as President. You will meet a Sarkozy who has not elected on a foreign policy platform, but this is where he has thus far left his clearest mark, repositioning France to

SARKOZY'S LEADERSHIP: FRANCE

3. (C) It remains to be seen if Nicolas Sarkozy will prove able to reform France economically and socially, unleash its competitive potential, and
4. (C) Sarkozy's first year in office is the story of how a spectacularly successful presidential candidacy gave way to a spectacularly unpopular presidency. The collusion and antagonism between Sarkozy and the media are key, persistent themes of this story. For the
5. (C) Since March Sarkozy has sought to reassure his partisans and the country that he remains committed to reform, despite setbacks, and the

SARKOZY'S LEADERSHIP: U.S.-FRANCE

6. (C) France remains a world power and a leader of Europe. With global military and diplomatic reach, it generates significant economic wealth and
7. (C) Sarkozy's leadership in reinvigorating the bilateral relationship was marked both by powerfully symbolic gestures and concrete actions.
8. (C) At the Bucharest Summit, when you last met with him, Sarkozy repeated his intention to "renovate" France's relationship with NATO and the

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR HIM

9. (C) You and Sarkozy have brought about an important shift on the world scene: France and the U.S. are acting together in a way they were not

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10. (U) Discussion follows of France's approach to key international issues and how the visit might be used to advance our bilateral cooperation
11. (S/NF) IRAN: The French are the most tough-minded of our allies, and Sarkozy has more than erased the doubt in France's position stemming from
12. (C/NF) NATO: President Sarkozy, his closest advisors have made clear that he has already made the decision for France to rejoin NATO, and
13. (C) AFGHANISTAN: At the Bucharest NATO summit, Sarkozy publicly announced 700 new troops for Afghanistan, a supplemental battalion for RC-17
14. (C) IRAQ: French reluctance to commit military troops to Iraq remains a constant, as does France's hesitation to increase bilateral assistance
15. (C) LEBANON/SYRIA: They French Presidency learned its lesson from its failed attempt to work with Syria late last year to secure election
16. (C) ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE: As always, France remains eager to play an important role in bringing peace between Israel and the Palestir
17. (C) KOSOVO: France recognized Kosovo, its independence immediately, but is hesitant about full implementation due to the potentially destabilizing
18. (C) EU PRESIDENCY: France will chair the European Union from July to December 2008. As President of the European Council, Sarkozy will be
19. (C) UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN: This new organization, Sarkozy's brainchild, will be established at a Paris summit meeting on July 13. But
20. (C) TERRORISM: Fighting terrorism remains among the GOF's top priorities. France is one of the few countries in Europe that gets it, and
21. (C) FARC HOSTAGES/BETANCOURT: Sarkozy raised the profile of the Betancourt issue during the election campaign and over the first year of his
22. (U) CLIMATE CHANGE: Ninety percent of the French public considers climate change as one of the gravest issues facing mankind and many still
23. (C) DARFUR/AFRICA: Sarkozy came to office in 2007 with an ambitious agenda for Africa, including an international conference on Darfur the
24. (C) CHINA: Sarkozy has tried to balance domestic political pressure to take a tough stand on Chinese human rights violations with competing
25. (C) RUSSIA: Sarkozy has been decidedly pragmatic in his relations with Russia, though his advisors say he enjoys a good personal rapport with

26. (C) International Economy: Elected on a platform of economic reform, President Sarkozy has taken steps to make France's labor market function
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